

Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-14 and 33-45, directed to a method of cell culture. As the elected species, Applicants elect hematopoietic cells, with traverse.

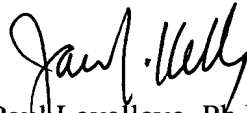
Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the Examiner would not be seriously burdened by examining Groups I-III without restriction. As noted in the Official Action, examination of all three Groups would involve a search of only nine different subclasses. Thousands of U.S. patents have issued where the Examiner searched nine or more subclasses during examination. Accordingly, the Examiner can search and examine Groups I-III in the present case without serious burden. Since there is no serious burden to examine Groups I-III, Restriction is improper.

Regarding the election of species, Applicants note that should the elected species be found allowable the search must be expanded to the non-elected species.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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